



MTS 510
39-21(3631D)
PATENT

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Done

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Jerry R. Ebner, et al.

Art Unit 1623

Serial No. 09/408,323

Filed September 29, 1999

Confirmation No. 3903

For DEEPLY REDUCED OXIDATION CATALYST AND ITS USE

IN PREPARING N-(PHOSPHONOMETHYL)GLYCINE COMPOUNDS

Examiner L. Maier

RECEIVED
MAR 28 2002
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

March 25, 2002

AMENDMENT C

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

In response to the Office action mailed September 25, 2001,
the time for response to which is extended to March 25, 2002, by
* the attached payment of the fee required under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136(a), please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓
Please replace claim 23 as follows:

C
23. (twice amended) A process for the preparation of N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine or a salt thereof, the process comprising contacting N-(phosphonomethyl)iminodiacetic acid or a salt thereof with an oxidation catalyst in the presence of oxygen, wherein the catalyst comprises a carbon support comprising: (a) a noble metal at a surface of the carbon support; and (b) a surface layer having a thickness of about 50 Å as measured inwardly from the surface and comprising carbon and oxygen, the ratio of carbon atoms to oxygen atoms in the surface layer being at least about 20:1 as measured by x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy after the catalyst is heated at a temperature of about 500°C for about 1 hour in a hydrogen atmosphere and before the catalyst is exposed to an oxidant following the heating in the hydrogen atmosphere.